

REMARKS

The office action of January 29, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the patent publication of Faasse, Jr.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Faasse, Jr.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Faasse, Jr. in view of the patent to Anhauser et al.

Applicant affirms the selection of claims 1-9 for prosecution in the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Faasse, Jr., it can be seen that this patent discloses a

medical adhesive dressing.

According to claim presently on file, the wound dressing product comprises:

- 1) a web-shaped wound dressing element having an adhesive surface;
- 2) a cover arrangement for covering the adhesive surface of the wound dressing element and comprising at least two cover elements; and
- 3) at least one removal aid connected to at least one of the at least two cover elements for facilitating removal of the at least two cover elements from the wound dressing element.

According to the description in specification, the term wound dressing element identifies an element which is applied for fixation and covering in connection with the treatment of wounds via its adhesive surface. Accordingly, the wound dressing element is the "active" element of the claimed wound dressing product.

According to independent claim 1, the adhesive surface of the wound dressing element to be applied for fixation and/or covering purposes is covered by a cover arrangement which may be removed using the removal aid which, again, is connected to the cover elements

of the cover arrangement. Accordingly, the removal aid is connected to the cover elements but not to the wound dressing element.

On the other hand, the construction proposed by Faasse comprises a polyurethane film 13 which, according to the description in paragraph [0014], is to be applied to a patient's skin via the adhesion of layer 14 applied to the undersurface of film 13, such that the polymeric film 13 is comparable to the wound dressing element of independent claim 1 of the present application. According to the description in section [0013] the known polyurethane film 13 carries on one side thereof handles 11 attached to a face of the polyurethane film 13 that is not coated with an adhesive. Further, the polyurethane film 13 (wound dressing element) carries on a face opposite to the face which is not coated with an adhesive a silicone coating 16 attached to an adhesive-coated side of polyurethane film 13. According to the description in section [0014] in an approach to apply polyurethane film (wound dressing element) to a patient's skin a user may fold back the end portion of release liner 15 to expose the end of one of the handles 11 and then the exposed handle 11 can be used to peel the film 13 away from the release liner 15 and to attach the polymeric film 13 to a patient's skin via adhesion of layer 14 on the undersurface of film 13. Accordingly, handling member 11 attached to the upper surface of polyurethane film 13 is comparable

LZ-85

to the removal aid as specified in independent claim 1 of the present application, while release liner 15 having a silicone coating 16 is comparable to the cover arrangement as specified in independent claim 1 of this application. Accordingly, the removal aid of the known wound dressing product is attached to one side of the wound dressing element of the known product, while the cover arrangement is attached to an opposite side of the wound dressing element. Accordingly, Faasse completely fails to disclose a wound dressing product having a removal aid connected to at least one of the at least two cover elements of a cover arrangement.

Furthermore, Faasse fails to disclose a cover arrangement having two cover elements which are separated from one another by a partition line. Rather, the cover arrangement of Faasse is constructed of a two-layer (silicone coating; release liner) web having only one element. Regarding the description in paragraph [0022] of Faasse it is noted that this description refers to the production of individual wound dressing products but not to the construction of individual cover elements of a cover arrangement of a single wound dressing product.

As discussed above, the structure of the wound dressing product disclosed by Faasse is completely different from the structure of

LZ-85

the wound dressing product as recited in independent claim 1, since the product disclosed by Faasse neither comprises a cover arrangement having two cover elements separated from one another by a partition line nor a removal aid connected to at least one of the at least two cover elements for facilitating removal of at least two cover elements, as in the presently claimed invention.

Moreover, the subject-matter of the claimed invention is not obvious from the disclosure of Faasse, since Faasse discloses a completely different structure of a wound dressing product having a wound dressing element being provided at one surface thereof with a cover arrangement and an opposite second surface with a removal aid, while the presently claimed structure provides the cover arrangement and the removal aid at one and the same surface of the wound dressing element.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Anhauser has also been considered. It is believed that this reference adds nothing to the teachings of the

LZ-85

above-discussed reference so as to suggest the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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LZ-85

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 29, 2007.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

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